

## **REMARKS**

### **Specification Amendment**

The specification has been amended to include a Summary. No new matter has been added.

### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 6 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. Claims 16 and 19-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14-25, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,470,079 (LeStrange et al.) and U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0152120A1 (Howington). Claims 5, 8, 13, and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over LeStrange et al., Howington, and U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0069071A1 (Britt et al.) Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over LeStrange et al., Howington, and U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0187834A1 (Rowe et al.).

### **Claim Amendments**

Claims 6 and 25 have been amended to eliminate the indefiniteness rejection. Claim 15 has been amended to make it more consistent with claim 10. Claim 16 has been amended to eliminate the non-statutory subject matter rejection. As a result, claim 17 has been canceled and claim 18 has been amended. Claim 29 has been added.

### **The Cited Art**

LeStrange et al. discloses a game machine accounting and monitoring system which includes a game monitoring unit 16, a computer network interface 18, and a central or host computer system 20. (Col. 5, lines 6-9). The accounting system can support accounting of multiple games within a single gaming machine. (Col. 11, lines 59-62). As such, when a game change event 45 occurs, the game monitoring unit 16 transmits a game change message to the

host computer 20. The meter data that accompanies that message represents the last meter values for the previous game. (Col. 12, lines 17-20).

Howington discloses a casino resort management system that provides a location identifier for each location within a casino, a placard identifier for each placard, and a machine identifier for each gaming machine. (§006). A placard indicates the machine brand, model, and the denomination that a machine accepts (i.e., quarters or nickels). (§004). As shown in FIG. 2, the placard identifier includes a placard number used to denote a machine code, for example, “04”, that indicates a quarter slot machine, and a machine number that identifies a machine within this particular denomination. (§0026). This system maintains and tracks machines and location history in a manner which allows for the changing of machine placards without losing historical machine or location information. (§0028). The system includes a sample system display 400 which displays, among other things, the location identifier, the placard identifier, and the denomination for a particular machine. (§0029). The machines are not configured to operate with multiple denominations. (FIGS 2 and 4; §004, §0026, and §0029).

Britt et al. discloses an entertainment monitoring system 100 and method 200 for use in a gaming environment. The entertainment monitoring system includes a plurality of electronic gaming machines 102. (§0087).

### **Applicants’ Claimed Invention Would Not Have Been Obvious**

Applicants’ claimed accounting system calls for a receiver for collecting first meter information from a first unique combination of a game and a denomination in a single game unit, and for collecting second meter information from a second unique combination of a game and a denomination in the single game unit. The accounting system also includes a database for storing the collected information.

This accounting system can be used with multi-game, multi-denomination (MGMD) machines. These machines allow a player to select the denomination of the wager unit, the game type, and the exact game pay schedule to be played. Each possible combination of denomination, game type, and game pay schedule may result in a unique theoretical hold percentage. (Applicants’ specification at page 2, lines 11-21). Present game accounting systems, like those disclosed in LeStrage et al. and Howington, are unable to account for MGMD devices. (Applicants’ specification at page 1, lines 26-28).

The accounting system of LeStrange et al. is operable with multiple-game machines. However, as noted in the Office Action, LeStrange et al. fails to disclose or suggest multi-denomination gaming machines. Howington was said to cure this deficiency, but it does not.

The casino resort management system of Howington is operable with gaming machines that play only a single game and accept only a single denomination. The denomination, for example, may be a quarter or a nickel. (§004). As clearly shown in subwindow 402 of FIG. 4, in the column labeled “Denom”, each gaming machine accepts but one denomination, that is, nickels, quarters or dollars. A single machine does not accept nickels, quarters and dollars. Rather, it accepts only one of these denominations. (§§004, 0026 and 0029; FIGS.2 and 4).

The system of Howington does not deal with MGMD machines. The system is configured to provide a location identifier for each location within a casino, a placard identifier for each placard, and a machine identifier for each gaming machine. (§006). The Howington system is designed to eliminate the problems associated with using placards that are moved from one gaming machine to another or with gaming machines that are moved from one location to another. (§§004, 005). The system tracks a machine and location history in a manner which allows for the changing of machine placards without losing historical machine or location information. (§0028).

As such, Applicants’ claimed system and method would not have been obvious in view of the combination of LeStrange et al. and Howington.

Moreover, there is absolutely no disclosure of the subject matter of claim 8, the first meter information is collected at a regular interval, and the subject matter of claim 26, accepting values at established time intervals, in Britt et al. Therefore, these claims would not have been obvious in view of the combination of LeStrange, et al., Howington, and Britt et al.

New claim 29 is also directed to patentable subject matter. It specifies that the first meter information is collected at regular intervals and at the end of a gaming session of the first unique combination of a game and a denomination. The cited references do not disclose nor suggest this feature.

## **Conclusion**

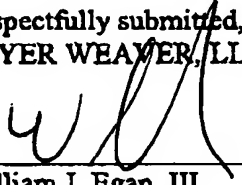
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P312).

Dated: 6/7/07

Respectfully submitted,  
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